

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

TOM DAVIS, CHAIRMAN



MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release
June 28, 2005

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Government Reform Committee to Review the Next Generation Internet and Transition to IPv6

Is the Federal Government Doing Enough?

Will Other Nations Surpass the U.S.?

**What: Government Reform Committee Oversight Hearing:
"To Lead or To Follow: The Next Generation Internet and the
Transition to IPv6"**

When: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 2005 at 2:00 P.M.

Where: ROOM 2154, RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

Background:

Network addresses are used to help send information such as text, voice, and video from one computer to another over the Internet by routing the information to its final destination. An Internet Protocol (IP) is the standard signaling method used for communication over the Internet and enables the administration of these addresses.

The current Internet is based on Internet Protocol version 4 (IPv4), which may be unable to accommodate the increasing number of global users and devices that are connecting to the Internet. As a result, IP version 6 (IPv6) was developed to increase the amount of available IP address space, enhance computer security, advance wireless communications, and improve quality of service. The transition could facilitate the Next Generation Internet.

Recognizing the importance of the technology, several countries are moving quickly to adopt IPv6 and have initiated pilots and projects to help with the IPv6 transition. **However, a recent GAO report found that the majority of federal agencies have not begun to address or plan for IPv6 transition in any substantive manner. Decisions whether to undertake the transition could have a significant impact on U.S.**

competitiveness, information security, and access to these new applications, products, services, and markets.

If agencies do not address these key planning issues and seek to understand the potential scope and complexities of IPv6 issues, they will face increased costs and security risks. If not managed, existing IPv6 features in agency networks can be exploited by unauthorized individuals who can gain access to federal information and resources undetected.

The Committee's hearing will include a review of the issues raised in the GAO report. The Committee is interested in an assessment of the federal government's transition to IPv6, whether the benefits of the transition outweigh the costs and present security risks, and what additional steps, if any, need to be taken to prepare for the transition. In addition, the Committee is interested in learning about whether there is a need for additional legislation, guidance, procedures, or resources in conjunction with a transition. Finally, the Committee is interested in private sector initiatives regarding IPv6, what efforts other nations have made toward a transition, and what the implications of those efforts are for the United States and the federal government.

Witnesses:

Panel I

Karen Evans, Administrator for Electronic Government and Information Technology,
Office of Management and Budget

David Powner, Director of Information Technology Management Issues, Government
Accountability Office

Keith Rhodes, Chief Technologist and Director, Center for Technology and Engineering,
Government Accountability Office

George G. Wauer, Director, Architecture & Interoperability, Office of the Assistant
Secretary of Defense for Networks and Information Integration and DOD Chief
Information Officer, Department of Defense

Panel II

John Curran, Chairman, American Registry for Internet Numbers

Jawad Khaki, Corporate Vice President, Microsoft Corporation

Stan Barber, Vice President, Verio Inc.

Alex Lightman, Chief Executive Officer, Charmed Technology Inc.

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